

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

NOELAN VANDERGROOT,

Plaintiff

v.

WARDEN PERRY RUSSELL, *et al.*,

Defendants

Case No. 3:20-cv-00708-RFB-WGC

ORDER

I. DISCUSSION

On December 21, 2020, Plaintiff, Plaintiff, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections (“NDOC”), submitted a civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and filed an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1-1, 1). Plaintiff’s complaint and Plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* are both incomplete.

Plaintiff’s Complaint

Upon review, the Court notes that Plaintiff did not sign the complaint. (ECF No. 1-1). Under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a plaintiff who is not represented by counsel is required to sign his complaint. Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a). Because Plaintiff did not sign the complaint, the Court cannot consider it.

As such, the Court grants Plaintiff a **one-time extension** to submit a signed amended complaint to the Court on or before **February 22, 2021**. If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, he is advised that an amended complaint supersedes (replaces) the original complaint and, thus, the amended complaint must be complete in itself. See *Hal Roach Studios, Inc. v. Richard Feiner & Co., Inc.*, 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1989). Therefore, a mere signature page will not be sufficient. Plaintiff should file the amended complaint on this Court’s approved prisoner civil rights form, and it must be entitled “First Amended Complaint.”

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Plaintiff's Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and Local Rule LSR 1-2, an inmate seeking to begin a civil action in this Court may apply to proceed *in forma pauperis* in order to file the civil action without prepaying the full \$402 filing fee. To apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit all three of the following documents to the Court:

(1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, this Court's approved form (i.e. pages 1 through 3 with the inmate's two signatures on page 3),

(2) a **Financial Certificate** properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official (i.e. page 4 of this Court's approved form), and

(3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period**.

Plaintiff has not submitted a properly signed Financial Certificate or an inmate account statement for the previous six-month period. Accordingly, the Court denies Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1) without prejudice because the application is incomplete.

The Court will grant Plaintiff a **one-time extension** until on or before **February 22, 2021**, to file either a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* containing all three of the required documents or pay the full \$402 filing fee. Absent unusual circumstances, the Court will not grant any further extensions of time.

If Plaintiff does not file either a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three required documents or pay the full \$402 filing fee on or before **February 22, 2021**, this case will be subject to dismissal without prejudice for Plaintiff to file a new case with the Court when Plaintiff is able to either acquire all three of the documents needed to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pays the full \$402 filing fee.

A dismissal without prejudice means Plaintiff does not give up the right to refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff has all three documents

needed to submit with the application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Plaintiff may also choose not to file an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and instead pay the full filing fee of \$402 on or before **February 22, 2021** to proceed with this case.

II. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, IT IS ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court will send to Plaintiff the approved form for filing a § 1983 complaint, instructions for the same, and a copy of his original complaint. (ECF No. 1-1). If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, he should use the Court's approved form and he must write the words "First Amended" above the words "Civil Rights Complaint" in the caption.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Plaintiff chooses to file a signed amended complaint, Plaintiff will file the signed amended complaint to this Court on or before **February 22, 2021**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff does not file a signed amended complaint on or before **February 22, 2021**, this case will be subject to dismissal without prejudice for Plaintiff to refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff is able to file a signed amended complaint.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is denied without prejudice to file either a new and fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three documents or pay the full \$402 filing fee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court will send Plaintiff the approved form application to proceed *in forma pauperis* by an inmate, as well as the document entitled information and instructions for filing an *in forma pauperis* application.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before **February 22, 2021**, Plaintiff will either pay the full \$402 filing fee for a civil action (which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee) or file with the Court:

- (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate** on this Court's approved form (i.e. pages 1 through 3 of the form with the inmate's two signatures on page 3),

1 (2) a **Financial Certificate** properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail
2 official (i.e. page 4 of this Court's approved form), and

3 (3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account statement for the**
4 **previous six-month period.**

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff does not file a fully complete
6 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three documents or pay the full \$402
7 filing fee for a civil action on or before **February 22, 2021**, this case will be subject to
8 dismissal without prejudice for Plaintiff to refile the case with the Court, under a new case
9 number, when Plaintiff has all three documents needed to file a complete application to
10 proceed *in forma pauperis* or pays the full \$402 filing fee.

11 DATED: December 28, 2020

12 Walter G. Cobb
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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